MDARC CARRIER

Volume XLIV Number 12 WWW.MDARC.ORG December 1997

December Meeting

Wednesday, December 17
6:00 PM

Holiday Party
***

Contra Costa Country Club
801 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill

Presidential QRM

By Sam Lipson, KO6JR

The end of the year is here. The MDARC Holiday Party is on Wednesday, 17 December. I hope to see you all there. At our annual party, we will be honoring those of us who really went above and beyond in service to the amateur community. We will also have the opportunity to mingle in a festive atmosphere and just have a good time.

The potential obstacles to our hobby never seem to end. This month, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors will begin considering a new telecommunications policy which may affect our antenna structures. We just went through this with Walnut Creek and Concord will also be looking at their ordinances in the near future. We all need to speak out on this topic to assure our continued operation in support of our communities. Information on these issues will continue to be published here and announced on our nets.

Looking into the new year, we will all have the opportunity to enjoy our hobby in many ways. For those of us on HF, the sun-spot cycle should be picking up a bit. Our repeaters are back up to the high level on the new tower on Mt. Diablo which will allow more far reaching local communications. Public service events will begin in the spring and all of us should try to participate throughout the year.

So, looking forward to lots of holiday presents improving our shacks and to a prosperous and healthy new year, I look forward to serving as president next year.

73, de Sam, KO6JR

From the Repeater Committee

By Jim Brunk, Chairman

Signal Strength

The committee would like to thank Jay Caldis, KT6Y, JC Smith, K0HPS, Arnold Harding, KQ6DI, Dick Brown, KT6X and Bruce Smith, KC6JMN for returning signal strength reports. Last month we published the signal report form in the *Carrier*. It is also found on the Design Link BBS and will soon be on the web page. If you encounter signal strength of less than S9, send in a report.

The Committee

Bugs got into the listing of the committee members published last month. Here is the corrected version of the list which is also found on the Club's BBS. Any interested club member is invited to join us. We meet the first Saturday of the month to plan and discuss the operation of the repeaters and nodes.

Name	Email
Tim Barrett	wd9biv@earthlink.net
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Bert Dawson	none
Keith Lattin	n6pmf@juno.com
John Lytle	Design Link BBS
JC Smith	k0hps@amsat.org or Design Link BBS
John Stuart	jwsa@pge.com
Lauren Styles	lstyles@california.com
Jim Tittle	jtittle@asphere.com
Barry Winkler	kc6wya@earthlink.net

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to w6uv@dnai.com (preferred), or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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Emergency Coordinator
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From the Repeater Committee

continued from page 1

Interference

An unhappy side effect of having a high level repeater is that the pool of people who want to jam or otherwise disrupt legitimate users becomes larger. The long time policy for dealing with these people is to ignore them. This non-response removes the gratification that the jammer is looking for. If you are harassed don't acknowledge the interference, just say that you are going to change frequency or go off the air.

The committee is working with the Official Observers to resolve complaints of interference. Don Smith, W6NKF, coordinates this program in this area. The OO's operate under a memorandum of understanding between the ARRL and the FCC to investigate violations of the rules. The OO's are the *only* people who can directly deal with the FCC to bring jammers to justice. Don can be contacted via e-mail at w6nkf@aol.com.

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 10, 1997

The monthly meeting of the board of directors of MDARC was called to order by President Sam Lipson, KO6JR, at Baker's Square Restaurant in Concord on November 10, 1997, at 7:30 pm. Other members present: Cal Groom, KE6OEH; Greg Estep, KE6VTA; George Roush, WB6OFH; Donna Cook, KE6PPM; John Stuart, KM6QX; Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT; Jim Brunk, N6BHX; Tim Barrett, WD9BIV; Dick Brown, KT6X; Tom Seabury, KO6RO; Howard Burk, KE6PTT; Paul Dickey, N6JOX; and Jerry Kornbau, AA4JK.

Treasurer Greg, KE6VTA, reported a balance of $33,019 in the combined account, not including Pacificon.

George, WB6OFH, and Tracey, KE6TOT, reported on plans for the holiday social to be held on December 17, at the Contra Costa Country Club, 801 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Doors open at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 7:00. A signup sheet will be available at the general meeting on Friday, November 21. Sam will locate a master of ceremonies and members who are familiar with the history of the club.

Jim Brunk, N6BHX, expressed gratitude to the repeater committee for all of the hard work they have done in bringing back the repeater. John Stuart reported that he was able to hit the repeater on a handheld radio from the top of Mt. Lassen recently. Jim suggested soliciting input from repeater users as to signal quality throughout the area.

Vice President Cal said that John Stuart will show slides and photos of the tower and antennas at the next monthly meeting.

John, KM6QX, said that there will be a RACES training session held in Martinez on Saturday, November 15, covering the Incident Command System.

New Business:

Jerry Kornbau, AA4JK, was introduced as the new webmaster for MDARC.

The ballot is on the web for the upcoming election, and one copy can be sent with the *Carrier*. Sam would like the board's permission to mail additional copies for additional family members, by first class mail, with one ballot for every family member. Mailed ballots must be received by 5:45 p.m. Friday and ballots can also be brought to the monthly meeting. The term for director is erroneously listed as two years instead of one. Tom, KO6RO, made a motion that the board give Sam the authority to solve the issue and print a new ballot, if necessary. Motion carried.

There was some discussion of methods of promoting our club and its activities to the public. There are several local sources to contact for publication of announcements of club activities, such as the local cable channel and

newspapers. Donna, KE6PPM, has volunteered as public information officer for 1998, and will contact several people who have experience in this type of position.

Sam will update version the MDARC information brochure with collected input for changes and corrections.

The next board meeting will be December 8 at 7:30, at Baker's Square. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Cook, KE6PPM

MDARC General Meeting Minutes

November 21, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by President Sam, KO6JR.

Jim Wallace, WB6LQG, gave the year-end VE report: 350 applications resulted in 18 tech plus, 148 technician, 38 general, 19 advanced, and 26 extras, including Pacificon. Approximately 600 elements were given. Tonight eleven hams were tested and all passed, including one novice.

Tony Stanton, AC6GM, reported that approximately 35 people participated in classes in 1997, with a 99% pass rate. Classes will begin again in March 1998 at the Pleasant Hill Adult Center.

Jim Brunk, N6BHX, reported for the repeater committee and asked for input from anyone using the repeater as to signal strength.

Pete Smith, W6NZY, reported that several new members joined as a result of Pacificon. He is now accepting renewals.

Visitors and upgrades were introduced.

There will be no meeting on the third Friday of December.

Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT, announced that the holiday dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 17, starting with a no-host bar at 6:00 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00. Location will be Contra Costa Country Club on Golf Club Road in Pleasant Hill. Cost will be $15 for adults and $8 for a child's plate. See George or Bertha Rousch. Reservations must be in by December 11, and checks should be made payable to MDARC.

Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, announced the door prizes.

Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, reported on participation in public service events in 1997 by MDARC members. Total number of events was 20, with approximately 1116 hours contributed.

Treasurer Greg Estep, KE6VTA, reported a bank balance of $33,019 in the MDARC checking account. The Pacificon committee will meet tomorrow at Baker's Square at 7 a.m. for breakfast, then proceeding to the Sheraton for a tour of the facilities available for Pacificon 1998.

President Sam discussed the proposed Contra Costa County 1997 Telecommunications Policy. Comments should be received by the Community Development Department no later than Monday, December 1, 1997. An informal meeting will be held on December 8, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 108, 651 Pine Street, Martinez, to discuss the comments received. It was moved that we ask Harry Styron, K6MFV, to represent our interests. Motion seconded and carried. Please submit your comments to Harry Styron, 1111 Civic Drive, Suite 380, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

This is the meeting at which to vote upon the previously proposed dues structure, which is as follows:

-Regular membership	one vote	$20
-Family membership	one vote each	$30
-Associate membership	one vote	$10
-Rocky Ridge autodial privilege-additional		$30
-Rocky Ridge family membership		$35

The call for the question in favor of voting carried. The proposed dues structure passed, but not unanimously.

Motion made, seconded and passed to approve the October minutes as published.

New Business:

The ballots have been counted and the following officers have been elected for 1998:

President	Sam Lipson, KO6JR
Vice President	Stuart Cannon, KE6OFD
Secretary	Paul Dickey, N6JOX
Treasurer	Greg Estep, KE6VTA
Emergency Coordinator	Robert Hampton, KF6FGH
Director - two-year term	Cal Groom, KE6OEH
Director - two-year term	Keith Lattin, N6PMF

The next board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. December 8th at Baker's Square in Concord. The main topic of discussion will be the 1998 budget. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:35, followed by a program outlining the history of the repeater, with slides and diagrams, given by John Stuart, KM6QX; Keith Lattin, N6PMF; and Barry Winkler, KC6WYA.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna A. Cook, KE6PPM

Pacific Division Update

By Brad Wyatt, K6WR

FCC Announces Electronic Renewal Form 900

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has consolidated eight renewal forms into one. Form 900, "Application for Electronic Renewal of Wireless Radio Services Authorizations," is an interim measure to permit all licensees of the WTB, including hams, to renew their licenses electronically.

Form 900 is only for renewals, not for license modifications. You can only enter changes (e.g., name, address) using Form 900 as a part of the process of renewing your license. You can only use Form 900 if the expiration date on your license falls within the renewal window, which is within 120 days of expiration. You cannot use Form 900 to renew an expired license. Form 900 may only be submitted electronically.

Access Form 900 on the WTB Electronic Commerce page, http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/electcom.html. Select "Production Page for Electronic Commerce Applications" to access the Form 900. Thanks - FCC and ARRL Letter Oct. 3.

New FCC Commissioners Take Office

The new FCC Commissioners took office in early November. They are William Kennard, Chairman, previously General Counsel of FCC, Michael Powell, previously chief of staff at

the Justice Department's antitrust division, Harold Furchtgott-Roth, an economist formerly with the House Commerce Committee, and Gloria Tristani, formerly a New Mexico state utilities regulator. They join Susan Ness, the sole commissioner who continues.

Vanity Call Sign Gate 4 to Open Dec. 2, 1997

General, Technician Plus, Technician and Novice Class amateur operators may request a vanity call sign on or after December 2, 1997.

The details for requesting a vanity call sign follow the pattern used on the previous gates. QST, Pacific Division Updates and other publications detail the use of Forms 610-V and 159 for filing electronically and in paper document format. The fee is $50 for the 10 year license.

Handi-Ham Camp in California Announced

The next session of HANDI-HAM Radio Workshop (Camp) will be held at Camp Joan Mier, Malibu, from February 24 to March 1, 1998. This camp will provide ham radio instruction at all levels for persons with severe physical (not learning) disabilities and/or sensory impairments.

The camp in 1998 will be FREE for California residents who are going for a first ticket or upgrade. All normal care, food, lodging, and Amateur Radio instruction for the session will be provided AT NO COST to the campers.

If you or anyone you know is interested, contact Jane Rova, Secretary, Courage HANDI-HAM System, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422; (612) 520-0512; e-mail handiham@mtn.org

ARRL Radio Coaches Program to Enhance Elmering

Over the years in the pages of QST, countless letters and articles have been written about Elmers, those patient, in-

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spired souls who thoroughly enjoy bringing newcomers into the world of Amateur Radio. Now, the ARRL's new Radio Coaches program takes Elmering to new levels. Through the Radio Coaches program, you and your fellow club members can become part of a national effort to better the lives of youth using Amateur Radio. And ARRL will provide the game plan and materials!

Radio Coaches stems from the kickoff of America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth, a national campaign to improve the lives of the nation's young people and put them on paths for brighter, more productive futures.

The mission will be to give young people an ongoing relationship with a caring adult and a marketable skill through effective education. Amateur Radio will be our chief tool.

Through Radio Coaches, we want to reinforce the idea that Amateur Radio is a "sport for the brain." Ham radio provides not only a lifetime of enjoyment, but also, potentially, a lifetime career.

To get involved contact Radio Coaches, c/o Field Services Department, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington CT, 06111; or e-mail coaches@arrl.org. Thanks, ARRL Letter, Nov. 14, 1997.

Latest Congressional News

Congress has recessed until at least Jan. 26, 1998. HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act, has been rewritten to reflect the concerns of Amateur Radio operators, volunteer fire fighters, scanner enthusiasts, and others. The ARRL worked with a coalition of other organizations to make sure your voice was heard on The Hill.

One of the bill's original cosponsors, Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA-14th) praised Mr. Tauzin for listening to Amateur Radio concerns.

S. 1350, just introduced by Sen. Leahy (D-VT) would give states and municipalities more leeway to regulate the construction and location of commercial telecommunications, radio or television towers that "destroy the view from such homes, and reduce substantially the desire to live in such homes." ARRL staff plans to meet with Sen. Leahy's staff. See DC Currents in Dec. QST, for more details.

Call for New Ham Classes

If you will let me know when and where classes are to be taught within the Pacific Division, I plan to post the class information on the Pacific Division WWW site. I will also make certain that they are registered with Education Activities Dept. (EAD) at ARRL HQ. Training materials of all kinds are available from EAD in ARRL HQ. Let's start out 1998 with a large group of new ham classes!

Bruce MacKay, KF6JLP, New Volunteer Counsel

Bruce MacKay, KF6JLP, joins the ranks of the Volunteer Counsels in the Pacific Division. Bruce works in Redwood City,

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CA. Welcome, Bruce.

Fred Fowler, KE6EPM, Wins Seat on Sunnyvale City Council

The Nov. 4 election resulted in Fred Fowler, KE6EPM, becoming a new Sunnyvale, CA, City Councilman. He joins Joel Gambord, KT6J, who won a seat on the Monte Sereno City Council in 1996.

WRC 97 Wraps Up in Geneva

The 1997 World Radio-communication Conference concluded its talks in the early morning hours of November 21 in Geneva, Switzerland. Amateur Radio survived WRC-97 largely unscathed, but the stage has been set for renewed spectrum battles at WRC-99.

The Little LEOs (non-voice, non-geostationary mobile satellite interests)--which put a huge scare into the ham radio community in 1996 with their proposals to share ham radio VHF and UHF bands—were unable to muster much support for new allocations at WRC-97. However, they came away with up to 3 MHz of additional spectrum on a regional basis, in the bands between 454 and 460 MHz. The Little LEOs also got a resolution calling for urgent studies in preparation for WRC-99—what some at the conference called "a hunting license" for additional VHF/UHF spectrum. A second issue that will recur at WRC-99 is finding a place in the 420-470 MHz frequency range for the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (EESS). Synthetic aperture radars (SARs) using frequencies in this range are said to be capable of penetrating the rain forest for mapping purposes.

Two significant ham radio-related issues failed to make the cut for consideration at WRC-99. For budgetary reasons, the WRC-97 delegates had to limit the WRC-99 agenda only to the most urgent issues. Pushed back to the tentative agenda for WRC-2001 were the possible realignment of the 40 meter band to resolve a conflict between hams and broadcasters in part of the band (along with possible expansion of broadcasting bands between 4 and 10 MHz), and Article S25 of the international radio regulations. Article S25 contains the international regulations specific to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, including the Morse code requirement for operation below 30 MHz.

WRC-97 delegates approved a resolution (called the Convention on Disaster Communications) encouraging administrations to facilitate the use of ham radio and other "decentralized means of communications" (including satellites) for disaster mitigation and relief operations. This resolution eliminated the need for Resolution 640, which defined how certain ham bands could be used for international disaster communications by non-amateur stations, so Resolution 640 was suppressed. (The term "suppressed" in this context means that the Resolution was deleted and will no longer be in force. It has gone away!)

WRC-97 delegates did agree to upgrade the Earth Exploration Satellite Service from secondary to primary at 1215 to 1300 MHz, which should have only minimal impact on amateur use of 1240-1300 MHz. The presence of EESS there also reduces the possibility that other, less-compatible services might later be introduced into this band.

In other allocation decisions, amateur satellite segments were not included among allocations for wind profiler radars. Except for a worldwide primary allocation at 1270 to 1295 MHz, the only specific allocations for wind profiler radars are in Region 1 (Europe and Africa), and those are on a secondary basis. Region 2 (North and South America) administrations were urged to implement wind profilers in radiolocation bands at 440 to 450 MHz, 904 to 928 MHz (protecting the lower, weak-signal segment), 1270 to 1295 MHz (protecting amateur satellite and weak-signal), and 1300 to 1375 MHz.

The delegates agreed that the bands 420 to 435 MHz or 438 to 440 MHz could be considered for use in situations where there was incompatibility between wind profiler radars and other radio applications at 440 to 450 MHz or 470 to 494 MHz (only in some Region 1 countries). In this case, too, the amateur-satellite segment is protected.

Several Region 1 (primarily European) countries deleted footnoted exceptions to the international table of allocations in the 1810 to 1830 kHz range, expanding the usability of 160 meters for ham radio. North Korea was persuaded to drop its bid for footnoted exceptions to the allocations table that could have affected some ham radio bands in that part of the world.

Amateur Radio was represented at WRC-97 by a multinational team of International Amateur Radio Union officials, including Secretary Larry Price, W4RA, Vice President Michael Owen, VK3KI, and Region 1 Vice Chairman Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM. They were assisted for a time by Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, and Eduardo Estrada, HC2EE, who are members of their respective regional executive committees. Numerous radio amateurs attended the conference in official capacities on behalf of their national administrations, including ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, who served on the US delegation.

In all, 1801 delegates from 142 countries registered at the conference. Another 141 observers from regional and international organizations also attended.

Thanks: ARRL Letter, W1AW Bulletin, and Larry Price, W4RA, ARRL International Vice President.

Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

Christmas is just around the corner and the new year is not far behind. I hope you all had a good 1997 and wish everyone a merry Christmas and happy new year!

What a great year 1997 turned out to be! While December 12 marks the 2nd anniversary of the Mt. Diablo tower collapse, the phoenix has risen from the ashes! The repeater coverage is better than it's ever been, even in southern Contra Costa County! In fact, the coverage is so good I replaced the 5/8-wave antenna on my car with a 1/4-wave and haven't noticed any significant difference. Let's hope the new tower is more wind-resistant than the last one!

Solar activity is finally starting to climb as the sun moves into cycle 23. The 10.7 cm solar flux has been above 100 for the last few weeks and many of the higher frequency bands are starting to open up for the first time in years! Now's the time to start getting ready for the great propagation yet to come. If your license doesn't allow access to the HF bands, now's the time to think about upgrading.

The *Carrier* is rather thin this month, don't you think? Not much more than meeting minutes and filler, really. I hate to keep harping on this subject, but a club this size (the largest in California) has to have a few writers willing to contribute material to their club's newsletter. If the situation gets much worse, I'll be able to send out the *Carrier* as a postcard.

That's all for now. Have a great holiday season and see you all in the new year.

NETS

W6CX Nets

APRS Net	Tuesdays 1930 Hours 147.060/+ (100 pl) Net Control: Barry, KC6WYA
Phone Net	Thursdays 1930 Hours 147.060/+ (100 pl) Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y
ATV Net	Thursdays 2000 Hours Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT Alternate: Sylvia, KC6YJV
Youth Net	Thursdays 1900 Hours 147.060/+ (100 pl) Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net
First Thursday following first Wednesday, 2000 Hours, 3.895 MHz. Net Control: Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ

Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team
Clay Yale, N6YBQ
(510) 228-8223

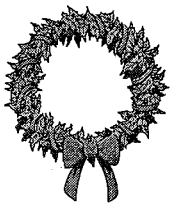
Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets
Thursdays, 1900 Hours

Central County	145.680 Simplex Jim Brunk*, N6BHX (510) 372-8248
East County	146.535 Simplex Jim Tittle*, KC6SOE (510) 432-3220
South County	146.355/+ (100 pl) Ed Ritchie*, K6SFD (510) 837-3265
West County	145.110/- Rich Parker*, KD6JCT (510) 237-2777

QSY to 147.735/- at 1920 Hours
Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets
Sam Lipson, District Emergency Coordinator, KO6JR
(510) 229-5705

* Assistant District Emergency Coordinator

Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
Holiday Party



December 17th at 6:00 pm
Contra Costa Country Club
801 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill
Dress Code: No T-Shirts

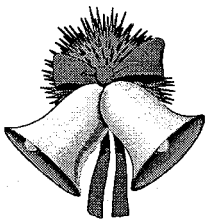
$15 for Adults
$8 for Children

Main Dish

Adults: Hazelnut Chicken Breast with Mandarin Orange and Rosemary Stuffing
Children: Chicken Strips

No-Host Bar at 6pm
Dinner at 7pm

Contact George Roush, WA6OFH
510-687-0912
Before December 11th



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 8	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square, Concord
December 17	6:00 pm	MDARC Holiday Party	Contra Costa Country Club 801 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill
December 28		January *Carrier* Deadline	
January 4	7:00 am-Noon	Livermore Swapmeet	Las Positas College, Livermore 1st Sunday every month

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Address Correction Requested

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U. S. POSTAGE
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CONCORD, CA
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MDARC Holiday Party: December 17